

ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agriculture has always been a vital part of the lives of Illinois citizens and the economy of the state. Illinois is gifted with some of the richest agricultural resources in the world. The fertile soil, favorable climate, availability of excellent transportation via water, highway, rail and air, good marketing opportunities and a productive work force are some of the many resources that allow Illinois to be recognized as a world supplier of food and fiber. The variations in soil types, climate and topography in the state make it possible for Illinois farmers to produce a wide variety of agricultural commodities. Approximately 1,500 different soil types can be found in Illinois.

“VALUE ADDED” AGRICULTURE

Food and agricultural product manufacturing and processing contribute significantly to Illinois' economy. Illinois ranks among the leading states in the number of food and agricultural processing companies in the state, including meat packing, soybean processing, dairy manufacturing, corn processing, feed milling, vegetable processing and many others. Approximately 1,400 food companies are located in Illinois. Furthermore, Illinois ranks number one among all states in the production of ethanol. According to the Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois companies produce approximately 680 million gallons of ethanol annually from approximately 261 million bushels of corn.

AGRICULTURAL DIVERSITY

The diversity in soil types allows farmers to grow many well known crops and lesser known specialty crops including alfalfa, amaranth, apples, bell peppers, blueberries, broccoli, buckwheat, canola, Christmas trees, clover, cucumbers, field corn, ginseng, grain sorghum, herbs, horseradish, mushrooms, nursery products, oats, peaches, popcorn, potatoes, potted plants, rye, seed corn, snap beans, sod, soybeans, strawberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter wheat and others. Livestock is produced using a wide variety of methods ranging from one ostrich in a pen to thousands of head of hogs in total production confinement. Other agricultural animals raised include beef cattle, broilers, buffalo, catfish, crayfish, dairy cattle, dairy goats, deer, emus, horses, hybrid striped bass, layers, mink, minnows, rabbits, sheep, tilapia, turkeys and others.

FARMS AND LAND VALUES

In 2001, there were 76,000 farms in Illinois that contained 27.7 million acres of land. The average size of the farms in 2001 was 364 acres. The average per acre nominal value of farm real estate as of January 1, 2002, was \$2,640 per acre, which compared to \$2,530 per acre on January 1, 2001.

COMMODITY PRODUCTION

Illinois ranked second among all states in the production of corn and soybeans in 2001. Production of corn for grain during 2001 totaled 1.65 billion bushels, one percent less than produced in 2000. The corn yield averaged 152 bushels per acre, one bushel per acre more than produced in 2000. Soybean production in 2001 totaled 477.9 million bushels, four percent higher than in 2000 and the highest production level on record. The soybean yield in 2001 was 45.0 bushels per acre, one bushel above 2000.

In 2001, Illinois pork producers produced 1.82 billion pounds of pork, ranking Illinois fourth among all states. Pork production increased two percent from the previous year. Cattle and calf production during 2001 totaled 586.3 million pounds, five percent less than the production in 2000. Illinois ranked 25th in the United States in marketings of cattle and calves.

CASH RECEIPTS

Total cash receipts from farm marketings in Illinois for 2001 totaled 7.53 billion dollars, six percent above 2000. Illinois ranked 9th among all states in total cash receipts in 2001. Crop cash receipts in Illinois in 2001 totaled 5.69 billion dollars, up five percent from 2000 and placed Illinois second among all states in total crop cash receipts in 2001. Livestock and livestock products cash receipts in Illinois in 2001 totaled 1.8 billion dollars, which was up eight percent from 2000 and placed Illinois 23rd among all states in total livestock and livestock products cash receipts in 2001.

In 2001, corn accounted for 39.3 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois and soybeans accounted for 28.3 percent. All other crops combined accounted for 8.0 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois. Compared to 2000, cash receipts for corn increased ten percent and soybeans less than one percent during 2001.

In 2001, hogs accounted for 12.2 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois while cattle and calves accounted for 7.0 percent and dairy products accounted for 4.0 percent of the total cash receipts. All other livestock combined accounted for 1.2 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois in 2001. Compared to 2000, cash receipts increased 11 percent for hogs and 18 percent for dairy, but decreased one percent for cattle.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

During the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, Illinois' export shares totaled 3.06 billion dollars, which ranked Illinois fifth among all states in total agricultural exports. During the same year, Illinois ranked second in the export of feed grains and products, second in soybeans and products, sixteenth in wheat and products and seventh in live animals and meat.